

Erlend Kimmich
235 W.102nd St. #5N
NY, NY 10025
Independent Producer
Manhattan Neighborhood Network

Regarding 05-311

Dear Commissioners,

As technologies continue to develop so must your vigilance in the public interest. Public spaces whether "cyber", "right-of-ways", broadband, airwaves, etcetera must be guarded and not frittered away. Media companies must compensate the public for the use of our spaces to bring their messages into the millions of households. This is in keeping with the first rule of business; never give anything away for free. You must represent the public in this matter and that means you need to negotiate an agreement, which ultimately benefits us as much as possible.

Phone companies and cable companies are welcomed in our communities and their services appreciated. As such we agree to pay the bills associated with the services provided. The phone companies and cable companies have to be willing to pay for the services/rent or freedom of use to be able to run their lines/cables broadcast their signals and whatever through our right of ways. Like us individuals paying for cable, they need to pay for the privilege of using our public space.

It is fitting that the money realized from these fees goes to PEG stations like Manhattan Neighborhood Network to which I

currently belong, and Access Tucson where I was a producer/member before my move East. The Public portion of PEG is crucial in guaranteeing 1st amendment rights in the digital age. The soapbox on the street corner or in the park does not amount to what it once did. Without the access to electronic media provided by public access stations thousands and thousands of views, which are not aired, or cablecast by the major networks would never make it to the public.

Tucson is an excellent example of how the G of PE&G or governmental station brings city council meeting to the public. For many viewers it poses a hardship to travel to council chambers for meetings, and thusly our representative form of government is better served by allowing the citizenry the opportunity to watch their local government in action.

In New York and the Tucson local colleges such as CUNY and PCC respectively air programming of an excellent nature on a variety of fascinating subjects. The students and faculty in their media and journalism curricula have produced some of the programming cablecast by the local colleges.

Getting back to Public Access, it is crucial that different localities have their own stations. Local cultures and communities can relate to each other in direct ways that are lost in national companies. For example in Tucson a large part of the programming reflected the local focus on spiritual matters from new age approaches, to programs in which the hosts read and interpreted directly from the bible. In New York we find a greater concentration on stage acting and

live performance notably hip-hop. However, In New York you can find the religious and in Tucson you can find the Hip Hop at the public access end of the dial more effortlessly than on most other stations. Diversity is furthered thru public access and as such it needs to have its funding sources preserved and if anything expanded.

Finally, the political exchange of ideas that occurs on public access provides a much wider range of viewpoints than he networks and all the cable affiliates. This can only be positive for a democracy where everyone's views and opinions could be and are encouraged at our local public access stations.

Thank you for your continued representation.